



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Season's Greetings from the National Mall

Celebrating the Holidays at the U.S. Botanic Garden

November 24, 2005 - January 8, 2006

June 24, 2005 - Washington, DC - For a holiday outing to the National Mall in Washington this year, you'll need to go no further than the U.S. Botanic Garden's Conservatory, where the Garden Court will be transformed into a replica of the Mall, one of our most treasured national parks. Titled Season's Greetings from the National Mall, the holiday exhibit will open on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, and remain on display through January 8, 2006. This miniature National Mall will feature model trains chugging past familiar Washington landmarks, just as real trains once did during the mid-1800s. Returning to the U.S. Botanic Garden for the holidays, renowned model railroad designer Paul Busse of Applied Imagination will create enchanting scenes sure to delight visitors of all ages. Many of his model buildings are lit from within, and all are made of natural plant materials, including different types of bark, cones, and seed pods. Featured buildings this year will include the USBG Conservatory, the U.S. Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Smithsonian Castle, and many others.

The U.S. Botanic Garden's holiday exhibit always includes spectacular horticultural displays, and this year will be no exception: hundreds of holiday blooming plants, including both old favorites and many new introductions, will be featured throughout the Conservatory, and an allée of conifers will greet holiday visitors as they enter the building. The centerpiece, a majestic 24-foot Fraser fir tree decorated in tones of blue, silver, red, and gold, will reign supreme over the surrounding festive display.

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Conservatory is located at 100 Maryland Avenue, SW, at the foot of the U.S. Capitol. Visitors are encouraged to take Metrobus and Metrorail. Further information is available by calling 202-225-8333 or visiting our website at www.usbg.gov.

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